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# A SALUTATION OF LOVE,

From the opening of the Springs of Eternall Life, unto the Flock of God in bonds, or else where scattered upon the Earth, but are one in the endlesse life of God.

*From a Freind to all the upright hearted people of God, that wait for the building of distressed Syon; known by the Name of*

ROBERT LODGE.

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Printed in the Year, 1665.

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*A Salutation of Love from the opening of the Springs of eternall life, unto the Flock of God in Bonds, or elsewhere scattered upon the earth but are ons in the endles life of God, Greeting.*

DEar Friends whom the Lord hath visited with the day spring from on high, and unto whom the Lord hath made known his Power, and the armes of his strength for your deliverance, from the deep captivity that your souls lay in, in times past, when there was none to help you, nor to comfort you; when you spent your dayes in mourning, for want of the presence of the Lord: and in that day did the Lord hear your groans, and the sighs of your spirits, and he appeared for your comfort, when you were comfortless; and in that day the Lord made known his judgements in you, for the purging of the dross out of you, that way might be made in you for the sweet dispencing forth of his mercies: And since the Lord prepared you for himself, by the work of his own spirit; How hath he let forth himself unto you,

you, to the making of your hearts glad, and to the overcomming your ſouls with the ſtrength of his love? that hath made you to ſay in ſecret, Who is like to the Lord? or what is to be compared with his love? and when your hearts were thus diſpoſed of by him for whom you had waited, what was all the worlds glory to you, for this was more to you then all, in whoſe hearts were opened the ſence of the want of him? And now, ſeeing the Lord hath done ſuch great things for you, it is the pleaſure of your God to try your love unto himſelf, whether you can follow him to the loſſe of all things in this world, yea or nay, for ſuch a birth the life of God hath been long travelling for, and now they are bleſſed that can ſay, This birth is brought forth, in which they can give up all for the enjoyment of the Lord, who hath turned a Wilderneſſe into a fruitfull Land, and a fruitfull Land into barrenneſſe in the inwards and he likewiſe is able to make it ſo outwardly, for them that beleive and follow him in faithfulneſſe unto the end. So my well-beloved in the Lord, who have felt his judgements and mercies in your hearts, who by the ſame are ingaged to follow the Lord, and hold

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forth your teſtimonies for his righteous Name, bleſſed you are, as you abide in the overcoming love of God, by which your hearts have been drawn after the Lord, and after a further enjoyment of his life, who cannot be ſatisfied without the freſh breakings in of his love into your hearts. Oh bleſſed are you for ever, however the Lord may diſpoſe of you as to the outward man, the Lord will be unto you as the ſhaddow of a mighty Rock in a weary land unto you, the begotten of himſelf by the Word of his power, he will nouriſh you by the vertue of his own life, and by the ſweetneſſe of his own love, and this being felt, it makes all eaſie and delightſome whatſoever, for there is nothing to be compared with this love of our God, Therefore ariſe you Sons and Daughters of the Lord, and ſhew forth the love that you bear to him, that all may know whoſe off-ſpring you are, and how highly you eſteem of the goodneſſe of God, that you can forſake all for him, and the light of his countenance, which is more to you then all the world. Oh Friends, it is for your ſakes that the Lord hath done great things already, and yet will the Lord doe greater things in the Earth for you,

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as in the heavenly life you abide, the Lord will arise for your help in the time of your distress and need; And therefore fear not you the wrath of man, nor the fury of the ungodly, but in the life look unto the Rock of your salvation, and he will beautifie you with the Robes of Righteousness, and with the garments of praises, that all may see and confesse, to the glory of him that hath shined forth of *Syon* this day. And, dear Friends, you that have felt the love of God, in gathering you out of the world, and in preserving of you unto this day, let the kindnesse of the Lord, and the compassion that he hath shewed to you, be an ingagement upon your hearts, to walk with the Lord in faithfulnesse, that as the Lord hath watered your souls with the streams of life, and pure love from day to day, and from time to time, he might still continue the same to you unto the end of your dayes, that your blossome thereby may not wither, but be kept beautifull in the Eyes of the Lord, that his delight may be in you to doe you good, to rejoyce over you in his love, as it hath been in times past, that by the same we might grow further in love with him, and be more and more affected with his glory,

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that however it be permitted to fall out concerning theſe formes, we may be the Lords, and he the lot of our Inheritance; Then ſhall we be conſtrained to ſay, Our lot is falne in good ground: And therefore you tender babes, be not diſcouraged nor amazed at the face of things, for mightie is the Lord who is with us, and glorious is his arme that doth compaſſe us about this day, and pure is the food that the Lord is feeding the tender ſpirited withall, which makes us undervalue all the world, and it's glory, becauſe our hearts are raviſhed with the love of God, which wonderfully is made manifeſt this day; glory be to the name of the Lord for ever, who breaks in upon us by the force of his love dayly, ſo that our ſouls is become as watered gardens, through the ſhouring down of his bleſſings wherewith my ſoul is viſited at this time, and in which I do viſit you all in the life of God, in bonds, or elſe where who are called to bear witneſſe for the Lord, in this trying, but not deſtroying day, that the purpoſe of our God may be fulfilled, and his determination compleated, that the works of the Lord may bring him praiſe in the gates of the wicked, who alone is worthy

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of glory and honour for ever and for ever, saith my soul.

*From a Freind to all the upright hearted people of God, that wait for the building of distressed Syon, known by the name of*

Robert Lodge.

*Given forth at the house of Correction in Wakefield, the 9th. day, the third Meneth, 1665.*